

MISCELLANEOUS.

MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
SCIENCE FOR 1843.

THE inhabitants of Cork and its vicinity have put their shoulders to the wheel of science in earnest, and we will venture to predict that the supporters of the *Corkites* at the Manchester meeting will not be disappointed in their anticipations of a welcome befitting the Association and most hearty to themselves. We copy the following resolutions proposed at a preliminary meeting held at Cork for the purpose of making necessary arrangements; they are conceived, and we are sure would be uttered, in the true spirit of Irish feeling and hospitality:—

“Resolved,—That, whether we consider the vast field of science its inquiries embrace, and which it has so successfully cultivated—the extensive European influence it possesses—the enlarged intercourse and co-operation between the learned of every clime which it produces; or the great benefits it locally dispenses in its annual visits through these kingdoms, we cannot but look upon the British Association for the Advancement of Science as the most important institution in the republic of letters; and the one which, far beyond all others, best illustrates the spirit, the energy, the intellect, the wealth, the learning and scientific advancement of the present day.

“Resolved,—That the periodical visits of the British Association are of peculiar advantage and importance to Ireland. By means thereof, men of influence and weight in other lands become acquainted with a country, which to be valued requires only to be studied and understood, and whose inexhaustible resources can only be fully developed by that combination of native intellect with advancing science, which this Association tends so powerfully to produce.

“Resolved,—That therefore we hail with pleasure the contemplated visit of the Association to this city, and recognizing with gratitude the preference given in the choice of locality to Cork, we are determined to make its reception here worthy of ourselves, our visitors, and our country.

“Resolved,—That, to give effect to this determination by making the requisite arrangement for the reception of the Association, and in conformity with the constitution of that body, the following gentlemen be now chosen a Local Council, subject to the approval of the General Council in London, and to them shall be entrusted the previous preparations and the management of the other details on this interesting occasion.

“Resolved,—That a Sub-Committee for each of the seven scientific sections be selected by the Local Council, to consist of members; namely, one Committee for the Section of Mathematics and Physical Science, one for Chemistry and Mineralogy, one for Geology and Geography, one for Zoology and Botany, one for Anatomy and Medicine, one for Statistics, one for Mechanical Science; and to these Committees shall be entrusted the duty of framing, as far as

may be practicable, collections relating to agricultural, zoological, and geological subjects, and procuring scientific communications, uniting local with general interest.

“Resolved,—That we recommend that a Sub-Committee be also appointed by the Local Council, to whom shall be committed the care of enlisting, through the medium of the Local and Metropolitan Press, and by other such means, the national interest in this important undertaking.

“Resolved,—That the Local Council be requested to organize committees of correspondence in London, Dublin, Belfast, Limerick, Waterford, and with whom communications may be opened connected with this subject; and that a Committee for sending invitations to distinguished scientific men, foreigners and others, be also appointed.

“Resolved,—That the Local Council do request the Agricultural Association of this county to appoint a Committee from their body to co-operate with the Local Council in its arrangements for rendering the visit of the Association permanently and practically useful.

“Resolved,—That it is desirable to hold during the meeting of the Association an exhibition of the manufactures of Ireland, including the tabinets of Dublin, the linens of Belfast, and the lace-fabrics of Limerick, and that the Local Council be recommended to make the necessary arrangements to effect so important an object.

“Resolved,—That a request be made to the Committee of the Art-Union not to open the Exhibition of Pictures next year until the meeting of the Association, and that it be not confined to the productions of resident artists alone, but be open for the exhibition of works of eminent artists, living and dead, connected with Ireland.”

EPILOBIUM VIRGATUM, FRIES.

In a review of Dr. Deakin's 'Florigraphia Britannica,' it is stated (Ann. N. H. ix. 340) that that botanist had found the *Epilobium virgatum* (Fries) in the neighbourhood of Lincoln, and I have now the satisfaction of recording, that during the summer of 1842 I gathered it myself, on the sides and bottoms of deep ditches in peat bogs, in several spots above the High Force in Teesdale, Durham; and also near Caerlaverock (in the Lochar Moss), Dumfries-shire. I likewise obtained specimens at Ventry, in the county of Kerry, in July 1841. This plant closely resembles *E. tetragonum* (Linn.), from which it is most easily distinguished by its scions, which spring from the lower joints of the stem, not the root, are very slender, and do not terminate in a rose-shaped cluster of leaves; those of *E. tetragonum* being short, rather stout, spring directly from the root, and produce a terminal rose-shaped cluster of leaves. It is probable that *E. virgatum* is not an uncommon plant in peat mosses. It may be as well to add, that the same character distinguishes *E. alsinifolium* from *E. alpinum*.—C. C. B.

HABITS OF TARSIPES SPENSERÆ.

Some months ago I described a new animal from South Australia sent me by Governor Grey. Mrs. Grey has sent me the following very

interesting account of its habits :—“ We had two of them for some time in our possession ; the first specimen which is sent home died, I fear from starvation, for I was told that they feed on roots and nuts ; but this I found was a mistake, for they are carnivorous and feed on moths and flies, at least the last we had did so ; it used to take the moths, &c. by their two wings, holding them by its fore paws ; it ate the bodies, and the wings it threw away. I never saw it drink. It generally slept during the day rolled up like a ball, but of a night it became very lively, and was fond of climbing branches of trees ; it would hang suspended by its tail to a small branch, and suddenly jump to another. They were both found by men while ploughing, lying in a nest of grass and fur in a state of stupor. The last lived for many months, and made its escape from us.” Capt. Grey adds, “ it was a great pet.”—J. E. GRAY.

NEW BRITISH PLANT.

Mr. Robert Embleton of Embleton, in the county of Northumberland, has sent me a specimen of the *Majanthemum bifolium* (DeC.), *Convallaria bifolia* (Linn.), gathered in the woods at Howick in that county. He states that it also occurs at Kenwood, and that he has every reason to believe that it is *truly* indigenous in both places. As this plant is found in similar situations in France, Germany and Sweden, I can see no reason for doubting its being a native of Britain.—C. C. B.

NOTE ON HOMŒOCLADIA ANGLICA, AG.*

The following remarks on *Homœocladia anglica* (*Microcoleus marinus*, Harv.) will, I hope, tend to remove the confusion which has prevailed respecting the name of that plant. When in 1835 I first found it near Torquay, Mrs. Griffiths and myself thought that it was a species of *Schizonema* : one specimen was then forwarded to Dr. Greville, but probably overlooked, as he made no remarks upon it. Mr. Harvey, to whom I sent another, named it *Oscillatoria chthonoplastes*, a. ; but as I subsequently pointed out to him that it had none of the characters of *Oscillatoria*, and also differed in almost every respect from *Conf. vaginata*, ‘E. Bot.’ with which it was united in the ‘Br. Flora,’ he has in his ‘Manual’ described it as a species of *Microcoleus*, Desm., under the specific name of *marinus*.

In the meantime, Mrs. Griffiths and Mr. Borrer examined it together and considered it a *Schizonema*, whence Mr. Borrer gave it the name of *S. xylodes*. Afterwards suspecting that it might be *Homœocladia anglica*, I requested Mr. Borrer to compare its structure with a specimen of *H. martiana* sent him by Agardh, and I here subjoin the result of his examination :—“ I have examined, as well as I could, the ‘*Sch. xylodes*,’ and Agardh’s specimen of *Homœocladia martiana*. The structure is surely the same in both, a tube containing (possibly composed of) oscillatoria-like threads, which seem more broken into short bits in Agardh’s plant than in the other, the ‘frustules,’ I suppose, and the white interstices, represented in Agardh’s

* Read before the Botanical Society of Edinburgh.

fig. e. I do not find the 'binate series' of frustules, but I cannot affirm that they do not exist: neither can I make out the ramification of either. Agardh's 'nec facile definitur structura in specimine exsiccato' is quite applicable to both. Agardh's plant is rather more slender and of a greener brown."

My supposition now seemed very probable, but a few days since I was fully assured of its correctness on comparing my plant with a specimen of *H. anglica* in my friend Mr. Berkeley's herbarium, which he received from M. Crouan of Brest, and which I presume was so named by Agardh.—JOHN RALFS, Penzance.

JUNCUS DIFFUSUS, HOPPE, AND DROSERA OBOVATA, M. AND K.

Mr. W. Sander, of Hamburgh, has just informed me that he has received these two plants from Scotland, under other names. The *Juncus* was gathered at "Kincardine"-shire (?), in wet places; it is distinguished from *J. effusus* by the shape of its capsule and the pith being continuous. (See Koch, Syn. Fl. Germ. 727.) The *Drosera* grew at Lochnacross in Dumfries-shire, and was named *D. longifolia*. I may add, that all my Scottish specimens of *D. anglica* would probably be referred to *D. obovata*; and that I do not consider it as a distinct species, but only a variety of that plant.—C. C. B.

WHITE'S THRUSH.

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History*.

GENTLEMEN,

Will you oblige me by noticing in the next number of the 'Annals' the occurrence in this island of White's Thrush, *Turdus Whitei*? This very rare bird was obtained about ten days since, in the neighbourhood of Bandon, co. Cork, by R. L. Allman, Esq., and is now in my possession. It agrees in every respect with Yarrell's description of the thrush shot by Lord Malmesbury in Hampshire, and is peculiarly interesting when we recollect that the present is the first recorded instance of the occurrence of *Turdus Whitei* in Ireland; and that unless we suppose the thrush in the collection of Mr. Bigge, which Yarrell contrasts with the Earl of Malmesbury's bird, to be of the same species with the latter, his lordship's specimen is the only one which has hitherto been noticed as occurring in any part of the British Islands.

Very faithfully yours,

Dublin, 6 Grattan Street, Dec. 15, 1842.

GEO. JAS. ALLMAN.

FOSSIL MAMMALIA.

Mr. Blyth, Curator to the Asiatic Society of Bengal, in his report of presents received by the Society, states that he has been so fortunate as to discover, among the numerous valuable relics from the Sivalik ranges, which were presented to the Society by Col. Colvin, part of the head and bony cores of the horns of a large species of *Ovis*, nearly allied to, if not absolutely identical with, the *O. Ammon* of Siberia; and a corresponding portion of a true *Ibex*, to all appearance identical with the species (*Capra Sakeen*, nobis,) which still inhabits the loftiest Himalayan crags. It is unnecessary to dwell

here upon the conclusive proof afforded by the occurrence of these highly interesting remains of the existence of lofty, and even snow-clad, mountain heights in the immediate vicinity of the region then tenanted by the *Sivatherium* and its extinct contemporaries; but I shall avail myself of the earliest opportunity to draw up a memoir on the subject, illustrated by figures of the splendid fossils, which there cannot be the slightest hesitation in identifying (generically) as aforesaid.

CURATORSHIP OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Our able correspondent Mr. E. Forbes, lately appointed to succeed our lamented colleague Mr. Don in the Botanical chair in King's College London, has also been selected by the council of the Geological Society, from a list of nine candidates, (several of whom preferred very strong scientific claims,) to be the successor of Mr. Lonsdale, as Curator and Librarian of the Society. We have much satisfaction in stating that the choice of the Council was confirmed by an unanimous vote of a Special Meeting of the Society held on the 14th of December.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR NOVEMBER 1842.

Chiswick.—Nov. 1. Cloudless and very fine: foggy at night. 2. Foggy. 3. Hazy. 4. Cloudy: slight showers. 5. Overcast: sleet. 6. Slight showers: cloudy. 7, 8. Cloudy. 9. Densely overcast: stormy, with rain at night. 10, 11. Rain. 12. Stormy and wet: clear at night. 13. Boisterous, with rain. 14. Overcast: very fine: boisterous, with heavy rain at night. 15. Stormy and wet: foggy. 16. Rain: drizzly: clear at night. 17, 18. Overcast. 19. Heavy rain. 20. Overcast. 21. Clear. 22. Rain, with some sleet. 23. Lightly overcast: rain. 24. Fine: lightning, with rain at night. 25. Heavy rain. 26. Clear and fine. 27. Fine: stormy, with rain at night. 28. Cloudy: rain: fine. 29, 30. Very fine.—Mean temperature of the month $0^{\circ}18$ above the average.

Boston.—Nov. 1. Fine. 2. Foggy. 3. Cloudy. 4. Fine: rain early A.M.: hail and rain P.M. 5. Fine: rain P.M. 6—8. Fine. 9. Windy: rain P.M. 10. Cloudy: rain P.M. 11. Stormy: rain early A.M.: rain P.M. 12. Fine. 13. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 14. Cloudy. 15. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 16. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 17. Fine. 18. Cloudy. 19. Rain. 20, 21. Fine. 22. Rain: rain early A.M.: snow P.M. 23. Fine: rain P.M. 24. Rain: rain early A.M. 25. Fine. 26, 27. Fine: rain P.M. 28. Rain: rain early A.M.: rain P.M. 29. Fine. 30. Cloudy: rain early A.M.

Sandwich Manse, Orkney.—Nov. 1. Drizzle. 2. Cloudy. 3. Cloudy: clear: aurora. 4. Very clear: aurora. 5, 6. Cloudy. 7. Sleet-showers. 8. Damp: rain. 9. Rain: showers. 10. Sleet-showers: cloudy. 11. Damp: rain. 12. Rain. 13. Rain: showers. 14. Snow-showers: sleet-showers. 15. Frost and a little snow: clear and frosty. 16, 17. Frost: cloudy and frosty. 18. Cloudy: drizzle. 19. Drizzle: damp. 20. Drops: clear. 21. Hail-showers: clear: frost. 22. Cloudy: rain. 23. Cloudy: drops. 24—27. Showers. 28. Showers: a gale and rain. 29. Clear. 30. Cloudy: clear.

Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.—Nov. 1. Fair and fine. 2, 3. Fair but dull. 4. Fair but dull: clear. 5. Fair but dull: hoar-frost A.M. 6. Fair but dull: a few drops. 7. Fair but dull. 8. Slight shower. 9. Heavy rain. 10. Frost A.M.: rain P.M. 11. Heavy rain. 12. Wet A.M.: cleared and fine. 13. Fair: hoar-frost A.M. 14. Fair and fine: frost P.M. 15. Fair, but raw and cold. 16. Fair and keen. 17. Fair but cloudy. 18. A few drops of rain. 19. Wet morning. 20. Fair, but raw and cloudy. 21. Fair: frost A.M. 22. Snow: frost: rain P.M. 23. Fair and fine: slight frost. 24. Rain and wind. 25, 26. Rain. 27. Wet morning: cleared. 28. Storm of wind and rain. 29. Slight showers. 30. Fair and fine.

